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Approved For Release 2004/05/05 : CIA-RDP78T04743A000100050011-7

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[REDACTED]
G-MB - 319/63 (b)
28 May 1963
Copy No. 3

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Military Division, OGI

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ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

FROM: Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)
SUBJECT: Sino - Soviet Border
REFERENCE: Requirement No. OGI/16/63 (Project No. C 323-63)

1. In response to Requirement No. OGI/16/63 (C 323-63), a study has been made from available aerial photography covering (1) the northeastern tip of China from a line between Chia-mu-ssu on the Sung-Hua Chiang (Sungari River) and Lake Hanka on the Sino/Soviet border to the east, and (2) the strip of Soviet territory along the road and Trans-Siberian railway immediately east of the eastern border of the Chinese area delineated above, in order to detect evidences of any defensive positions being erected on the border or along the land lines leading to the border. A secondary object has been an evaluation of commercial activity in the region.

2. The study revealed, that with few exceptions, there have been no apparent changes on the Soviet side of the border, which is somewhat in contrast to the areas from Spassk Dal'niy southward and in the vicinity of Khabarovsk to the north. The few exceptions, annotated on the accompanying overlay, are not believed to indicate an increase in any defensive build-up along the Chinese border, but rather are thought to be merely indicative of modernization in the region which forms Siberia's eastern defense toward the sea.

3. On the Chinese side of the border, there is also a lack of indicators of any defensive developments. No evidence was found on the small scale photography used in the study that would indicate housing of more than very small numbers of military personnel in any one location, nor of improvement in communications to the vicinity of the border. There is no obvious activity along the eastern segment of the reportedly abandoned railway opposite Iman nor in the border hills to the north.

Declass Review by NGA.

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4. There is, however, interesting evidence of agricultural, communications, and industrial development in and near the local uplands. First among these should be cited the railway line running eastward from Tung-An (alignment only approximate on existing maps). The line appears active as far as 133 00 East, because from that location, at An-lo-chen, a new 30mm stretch of railway has been constructed northward to a newly developed settlement near 46 15N - 133 10E. There is no obvious indication of the prime purpose of the new railway or of the workers' settlement at its present terminus.

5. Two small, new towns with some additional rail facilities are found on the railway just northwest of 46 00N - 133 00E. From these towns a newly graded, all weather road leads through a low pass in the hills and joins a second newly improved road skirting the north slope of the upland from Chia-mu-ssu to a point at approximately 47 00N - 133 30E, near which forest cutting, agriculture, and swampland reclamation are increasing in area. Also near this newly improved road skirting the swampland to the north there are numerous modern barracks-type workers' villages, dams on small streams, and evidence of local land improvement and reclamation.

6. There are several new small airstrips in the area in addition to the known operational airfields. These new airstrips appear capable of accommodating only light aircraft. These airstrips are also annotated on the overlay.

7. In the upland, southeast of Chia-mu-ssu, there is concentrated mining activity in a few small valleys. An ore concentration plant, a reservoir, and newly developed railway facilities are found here. On some maps a railway branch is shown running to Fu-chin at 47 15N - 132 00E, on the Sungari River. The railway does not exist.

8. There is no evidence of defensive developments along the Ussuri River, at Fu-chin, or among any of the cutlying hill groups extending to the north-eastern limits of China.

9. Forwarded for your retention is one annotated overlay (CIA/PID/GMB/P-2479/63, copy 1) to CNC-F-10.

10. The photo analysis on this project was performed by [redacted] CIA/PID/GMB (NPIC), who may be contacted on ext. [redacted] for any additional information.

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ENCLOSURES:

1 Annotated Overlay (CIA/PID/GMB/P-2479/63, copy 1)

cc: NSALO, (NPIC)

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